

Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is under implementation to increase the production of pulses. During the last 5 years large number of varieties and their production-protection technologies have been developed for different ecologies in different food crops. Besides, frontline demonstrations are conducted for transfer of technology and breeder seeds for different crops are made available to the State agencies. All these measures are expected to result in overall increase in production of foodgrains.

Suicides by farmers

†440. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total number of farmers committed suicide since July, 2006 till date, State-wise;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/to be taken to solve this serious problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) A statement indicating state-wise figures of suicide during recent years as reported by the State Governments is annexed (*see below*).

(b) Farmers are committing suicides broadly due to the following reasons:

- Crop failure
- Indebtedness
- Drought
- Social & economic insecurity.

(c) The Government of India has taken several initiatives in this regard as indicated below:

A rehabilitation package for 31 suicide prone Districts in the four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala involving a total amount of Rs. 16978.69 crore has been approved by the Government of India.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

A comprehensive credit policy was announced by the Government on 18th June, 2004 containing measures for doubling of agricultural credit flow in next three years and provision of debt relief to farmers. The Government in the Union Budget (2006-07) has decided to ensure that the farmers receive short term credit upto Rs. 3 lakh at the interest of 7% per annum. Measures are also underway for revamping the Cooperative Credit Structure.

Statement

Cases of suicide by farmers in States

SLNo.	Name of the State	Period	No. (Based on the figures reported by State Govts.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2003-04	393
		2004-05	1126
		2005-06	376
		2006-07 (upto November)	104
2.	Karnataka	2003-04	708
		2004-05	271
		2005-06	152
		2006-07 (upto November)	71*
3.	Maharashtra	2003-04	173
		2004-05	622
		2005-06	577
		2006-07 (upto October 31)	1843
4.	Tamil Nadu	2000-2006	26
5.	Punjab	2003	13
		2004	11
		2005	6
6.	Kerala	2003	50
		2004	101
		2005	119
		2006-07 (upto December)	98
7.	Gujarat	2003	3
		2004	7
		2005	7
	-	2006 (upto May)	1

* Includes cases pending with Committee for want of information.

Source: As reported by State Governments.